

South Precinct Email Community Newsletter
June 2, 2009



Dear Community Friends,

Robbery

Robbery is the taking of property from an individual by the use of force, the implied use of force, or threat of harm. Throughout Seattle, we have reports of individuals being assaulted and robbed of cell phones, I-Pods, purses and their contents, and other items. There is no one group of people, location, or time of day that is more prone to robbery. It could happen to any one, any time, any where.

What You Can Do About Robbery

We advise anyone who is out and about to pay attention to the present moment and to his or her surroundings, and employ basic personal safety measures. Here are a few other Personal Safety reminders.

Safety On The Street

- Walk with a purpose; project an assertive, business-like image.
- Use common sense; plan your route to avoid uninhabited parks, parking lots, garages and alleyways; stick to well lit areas.
- Develop a plan before you see trouble. Crossing a street or entering a store may get you out of a potentially bad situation.
- If a car follows you or beckons you while you are walking, do not approach it; instead, turn and quickly walk in the *opposite* direction.
- Watch your body space; don't let people get too close, even if they appear to have a reason, like asking for the time, change, etc.
- Wear clothing and shoes that you can move freely and quickly in, especially when walking or waiting for the bus.

Minimize What Can Be Lost

- *Carry only what you actually need.* Carry only small amounts of cash and only the credit cards you actually plan to use. Leave expensive jewelry at home.
- Try not to carry *anything* that is irreplaceable or of sentimental value. Losing family photos, address books, and important papers is usually more traumatic to victims than the actual financial loss.

Carrying Valuables Safely:

- Handbags should be closed, carried in front of the body with an arm held loosely across it. A bag dangling by your side is much easier for a thief to grab. If wearing a handbag with a strap over the head, wear it under your coat. This makes it harder for the robber to grab the strap.
- Don't carry a handbag unless you actually need to. Place essentials (keys, small amount of cash, I.D.) in a pocket.
- Since your address is usually on a card or document in your bag, avoid carrying your house keys in the same place. Instead, carry keys in a pocket.
- If you *must* carry a large amount of cash or valuable items, do not carry them in your handbag or wallet. Carry valuables in an inside pocket.

If You Are Confronted

- If someone demands your property and displays or implies in any way that they have a weapon, don't resist. There is no property more important than your health and safety. You are more important than your "stuff." You can always get more stuff; you cannot get another you.

REPORT IT!!

- Report all robberies to police as soon as possible by calling 911. Police need the most descriptive and specific information a victim or witness can provide to locate the perpetrator of a crime: approximate height, weight, build, skin color, hair color, eye color, clothing (type, color, fit (loose/baggy or tight) - including shoes and headwear, and direction of travel. If you or someone you know is a survivor of any crime, please share your information with police.

Until next time, Take Care and Stay Safe!

Captain Les Liggins, South Precinct Commander Mark Solomon, South Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator